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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 18 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 17 August 1999 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the latest attack on Iraq carried out by the United States of America and the United Kingdom. On 11 August 1999, United States and British aircraft bombed the Dayr Mar Mati area to the north of Mosul, where there was a scientific encampment for the observation of the solar eclipse. A number of civilians were killed or injured in the attack. It is requested that the Secretary-General and the Security Council condemn this savage attack and make representations to the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom with a view to halting the attacks which those two countries carry out against Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Identical letters dated 17 August 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that, at 1030 hours on 11 August 1999, United States and British aircraft carried out a fresh act of savage aggression against Iraq, bombing the Dayr Mar Mati area to the north of Mosul, where there was a scientific encampment for the observation of the solar eclipse. The eclipse was the most significant scientific phenomenon to be witnessed in the region, and was being observed by a group of distinguished Iraqi and foreign scientists and researchers, as well as by a large number of news agency and satellite channel reporters. A number of civilians were killed or injured in this savage attack.

None of the norms and laws respected by the peoples of the world as they enter the twenty-first century provides any justification for this criminal act, yet the United States Administration keeps intensifying its attacks on the people and culture of Iraq and obstructing that people's scientific advancement.

It should be noted that on 10 August 1999, Kenneth Bacon, the official spokesman for the Pentagon, said that United States and British aerial sorties over the so-called no-fly zones would continue on 11 August 1999, regardless of the solar eclipse taking place on that day. The spokesman also acknowledged that coalition forces had bombed Iraqi sites an average of 15 times per month since 17 December 1998.

In view of the foregoing, we request you to condemn this savage attack and to make representations to the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom with a view to halting and preventing any repetition of these attacks, which are now part of those two countries' established policy, aimed at achieving their political aims. These aims are to discredit Iraq and its independence, and to inflict damage on its indomitable people and on Iraqi culture.

While condemning these repeated criminal acts of aggression against our country, we request the Security Council to intervene with the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom with a view to halting and preventing any repetition of the acts of aggression that they are carrying out against Iraq.

We also reaffirm the legitimate right of the Republic of Iraq to seek reparations for all the material and other damage sustained by Iraq as a result of these acts of aggression, which are incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq